

Mission Santa Ynez
Solvang, Santa Barbara County
California

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of California #3.

Historical American Buildings Survey
Henry F. Withey, District Officer
407 So. Western Avenue
Los Angeles, California

MISSION SANTA YNEZ
Solvang, Santa Barbara County, California.

Owner: Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles.
714 West Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles.

Date of erection: Present church started 1814, finished 1817.

Architect:

Builder: Indian labor under direction of Fathers Uria and Ulibarri.

Present Condition: Well preserved in its restored state except roof framing of Monastery which is becoming much damaged by termites.

Number of stories: One with tower of three levels.

Materials of Construction: Field stone foundations laid probably in lime mortar, walls of sun dried adobe brick laid in adobe mortar. Burned brick was used for piers and arches of Monastery cloisters, for a veneer of the church front, for buttresses on North and South sides of church, for window and door arches, and for mouldings and cornices all lime plastered and whitewashed. The bell tower of concrete is plastered and white washed on the exterior.

The flooring in the church is of tile, that in Monastery, cement, part wood covered. Ceilings are of heavy wood beams, hand hewn with wide boards above, all white washed; all ceiling beams were at one time decorated in colors; except for those over Sanctuary they have been white washed.

Walls of Sanctuary are painted in colors giving effect of marble panelling.

Pilaster treatment on church front is made with red paint only. Wainscoting in church was at one time decorated in colors now white washed. Roofs are of heavy wood construction tile covered.

Other existing records: Fr. Zephyrin Engelhardt, O.F.M. "The Missions and Missionaries of California"; "Mission of Santa Ynez." George Wharton James, "In and Out of the Old Missions." Rexford Newcomb, "The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California," 1925 Marie T. Walsh, "The Mission of the Passes."

Additional data: The Mission, founded in 1804, was the 19th in the chain of 21 established in California. In about 1820 when the Mission was in its period of greatest prosperity the Mission group consisted of structures built around an open quadrangle. These were the church, Padres' house, work shops, store rooms, tannery, blacksmith shop,

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stables, etc.

A few yards to the south was a group of four buildings, containing twenty rooms each in which lived a part of the Indians attached to the Mission. There was also a granary building that at one time served as a church. Only the church and a part of the Padres' house or Monastery now remains.

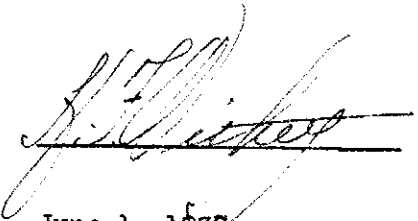
The original bell tower of adobe and brick construction fell in 1910 and was rebuilt in 1911 in reinforced concrete. The outlines of the former tower were followed in the new structure but three arches were used in the lower tier, in place of the original two and the walls were made much thinner.

Much restoration work was performed on the church and Padres' Quarters under the direction of Rev. Alexander Buckler during his charge, 1904 to 1924.

South of the Mission about one half mile are the ruins of a tannery originally built, owned and operated by the Mission.

The ruins consist only of the foundations that were built in a most substantial manner of field stones and lime mortar.

In about 1845 a seminary building was built of adobe and wood construction upon Mission property, midway between the Mission and the present town of Santa Ynez. It was used for school purposes for 38 years and when abandoned in 1883 it soon went to ruin. A small portion only remains at the present time. (Ref. The Mission of the Passes, Santa Ines. p. 46-52)



June 1, 1937.

DW 7/21/37